THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Taking into the account the shortage of hotel rooms in the country, Ministry of Tourism has already introduced a voluntary scheme for the approval of Guest Houses which would encourage all the existing Guest Houses and new ones on the anvil to avail of this scheme whereby approval would be given to those Guest Houses who maintain standardized facilities and amenities.

Shortage of hotels for tourists

†1612. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a heavy shortage of basic infrastructure and necessary facilities for achieving targeted increase in the number of foreign tourists in the country by promoting their arrival here;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is also a shortage of one star to five star hotels for promoting tourism industry in the country; and

(c) if so, the details of planning of Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In view of the acute shortage of hotel rooms, Ministry of Tourism is in regular touch with the State Governments and other land owning agencies for creating land banks for construction of hotels in the country. The State Governments have been advised to follow investor-friendly land policies and single window approach for promoting hotel projects and also for allotting sites on revenue sharing basis, granting extra FSI/ FAR for hotels, permitting extra commercial usage in the hotels etc. In order to enhance the inventory of rooms, the Ministry of Tourism has also formulated guidelines for approval of Guest Houses, Apartment Hotels, Time Share Resorts and Bed & Breakfast establishments. Besides, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central financial assistance to State Governments & Union Territories to improve tourism-related infrastructure.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.